



# Department of Justice

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## **MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VIDEO TAPING HIMSELF RAPING A SIXTEEN-YEAR OLD GIRL & SELLING THE PHOTOS**

ST. LOUIS, MO - Joseph Trahan pled guilty to producing child pornography, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

"The tremendous work of the Highway Patrol and the Postal Inspection Service saved a sixteen-year old girl from being raped over and over again, and will send this child pornographer to prison for at least 15 years," said Hanaway.

Between November 15, 2005 and January 24, 2006, Trahan videotaped himself engaged in sexual activity with a sixteen-year old girl and distributed them through the mail in exchange for money. In January 2006, Trahan was in possession of numerous image files on his computer depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Trahan, 42, Phoenix, Arizona pled guilty to two felony counts of production of child pornography. He faces a **mandatory minimum** of fifteen years in prison and a maximum penalty of thirty years prison when he is sentenced on March 2, 2007.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Postal Inspection Service and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Assistant United States Attorney Carrie Costantin, who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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